



Mistaken Kindness: Do Not Feed the Birds!

Feeding geese, ducks, fish, and other forms of wildlife is a “mistaken kindness”. Our resident and migratory waterfowl, mammals, reptiles, and fish are important parts of local and global ecosystems. They rely on specific energy sources from their environment and assist to keep the ecosystem’s natural balance. Wildlife is not adapted to acquire energy and essential nutrients from human food sources in most cases. Often, feeding animals makes them nutrient deficient and susceptible to disease because the energy source is not natural to the systems of the organism.

For instance, Avian species have gizzards for grinding seeds, macro-invertebrates and other natural energy sources as opposed to breads that people may feed ducks and geese. This may in turn lead to disease. Feeding wildlife also initiates domestication of the animals and this is damaging to the population, ecosystem and may pose threats to the community in some situations. Feeding wildlife “conditions” the animal, in some cases, to never leave the source for artificial food acquisition and the animals may never leave the vicinity, then causing populations to grow exponentially. Excess nutrients may quickly alter water chemistry and set of algae blooms.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact EECL's professional office at 302.684.5201 or via email at info@envirotechecinc.com!